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## FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N., DEPARTMENT EDITOR

### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

INFORMAL REPORT OF THE FOURTH REGULAR MEETING,  
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

BY SOPHIA C. NELSON

THE countries represented were: Great Britain and Ireland, Finland, Denmark, Holland, the United States and India. In addition five countries were received into the League, i. e., Belgium, China, Italy, Norway and South Africa. Each of these countries sent a delegate, with the exception of China. The Chinese papers were read by the chairman of the meeting, who acted as delegate pro tem.

The chief business of the Council was the election of the President and the Secretary and to decide about the next General Congress of the International League. Miss Hay had told me that it was expected that the next meeting would be held in the United States, and I offered a tentative invitation to that country. However, when the Baroness Mannerheim, who represents Finland, invited the Congress to meet in Helsingfors, the feeling of most of the delegates was that a larger meeting could be assembled in that city than in America, and that, in view of the financial straits and difficulties of the majority of the countries interested, it would be wiser to accept this invitation and it was decided to do so. This meeting, which is to be a General Congress, will be held, therefore, in Helsingfors in 1925. This year has been decided upon in view of the fact that our own biennial convention meets in 1924, and it was felt that probably more American nurses would be able to attend in a year in which we did not have a meeting of our own.

Baroness Mannerheim was elected President of the Council, it being deemed advisable to elect a president from the country in which the next meeting was to be held. Miss Dock resigned as Secretary, and Miss Reiman, a Danish nurse, was elected as her successor. Miss Reiman has just returned from America after having taken the Instructors' Course at Columbia, and she is at the hospital of which Miss Munck is superintendent.

The mornings of the Conference were devoted to the reading of papers, discussions, etc., the afternoons to visiting institutions. The hospitals we visited were beautiful buildings, excellently equipped, and stood in lovely surroundings. I have not seen any hospital in America which physically is as attractive as the hospital of which

Miss Munck is superintendent, (the Bispebjærg Hospital). Incidentally, Miss Munck has a large Training School and has no difficulty whatever in getting pupils, and seems to get them with high educational standards.

From the discussions, I gathered that the hospitals of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Holland were excellent institutions and that in these countries nursing was in a more developed stage than in Central or Southern Europe. Certainly from observation of the hospitals and training schools in Copenhagen, we gathered that the Danish standards were very similar to our own.

We were entertained royally, the delegates being guests of the Danish Nurses' Council for three days. During the first evening of the Conference, the formal reception of those countries coming into the League was held in a beautiful hall belonging to the Danish Y. M. C. A. All the Danish nurses were invited to attend, so the affair was a very large and formal one. The ceremony was impressive throughout, and I was especially impressed by the fact that Mme. Tscherning in welcoming the delegates of the different countries, greeted each one in the respective language of her country. As a matter of fact, it was a constant marvel to me in attending meetings at which so many nations were represented, to have all of the discussions taking place in English.

All the delegates were taken in a big auto-bus to visit the parks and other places of natural interest in and around Copenhagen. The last evening of the Conference a banquet was given at the Yacht Club, overlooking the bay. This banquet was attended by the delegates and the officers of the Danish Council. Most of the delegates felt that this had been one of the best meetings ever held. I think that one of the reasons for our feeling so, was that coming from countries more or less suffering from the strain of post-war conditions and whose people were oppressed by their many difficulties, Copenhagen gave the impression of being such a peaceful and happy place. Certainly it is the only country which I have visited in which I heard no complaints about conditions.

Perhaps another reason for our enjoying the Convention so much was the fact that wherever we went we were given so much to eat and so many good things. I am sure that we lunched or dined at least every three hours. I never in my life have eaten so much or such delicious food.

After the meeting in Copenhagen, the delegates were invited to Aarhus to be the guests of the hospital there. Ten of us accepted the invitation and spent the day at the City Hospital. Aarhus is the second largest town in Denmark and we had a very interesting time

there. Like the hospital in Copenhagen, this was in a beautiful building well equipped, and having a large training school. They tell me that all hospitals that are State or City owned in Denmark are very well managed and equipped and that they have plenty of money, and judging from what I have seen, I should say that this is so.

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#### OPPORTUNITIES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

The United States Civil Service Commission announces an open competitive examination for *graduate nurse*, and *graduate nurse (follow-up)*, for filling vacancies in the United States Veterans Bureau and in the Indian and Public Health Services.

*Requirements.—Graduate nurse.*—(1) Graduation from a recognized school for trained nurses requiring a residence of at least two years in a hospital having a daily average of thirty patients or more, giving a thorough practical and theoretical training, and (2) evidence of State registration, unless living in a State where there is no registration for nurses, in which case it must be stated in the application that the State requires no registration for nurses.

*Graduate Nurse (follow-up).*—In addition to the requirements for graduate nurse stated above, applicants must establish:—

(a) For general follow-up nurse, at least four months postgraduate training in public health or visiting nursing at a school of recognized standing or in lieu of such training one year's experience under supervision in public health or visiting nursing.

(b) For follow-up nurse in psychiatry, applicants must meet the requirements for general follow-up nurse, together with a six months' postgraduate course in psychopathology at a recognized psychopathic hospital with proper affiliations covering *all* nursing requirements will be accepted as complying with this requirement.

Applicants should apply at once to the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., for forms 1312 and 2380. State which examination you are applying for.

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#### EX-SERVICE NURSES—DO YOU NEED COMPENSATION?

"Any member of the armed forces who enlisted from April 6th, 1917, to February 9th, 1922, may file a claim for compensation within five years from the date of his or her discharge from the service. After February 9th, 1922, no claim can be filed against the Veterans' Bureau for compensation on account of disability or death in the service for any member of the armed forces who may have enlisted after that date who has not secured a certificate of injury prior to August 9th, 1922, unless there is evidence in file to show that claimant had a disability occurring within one year of separation from the service."